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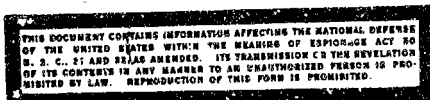
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SOURCE Izgrev, No 1586, 1949.SOFIA PEOPLE'S SOVIET OUTLINES PLANS FOR 1950

At the extraordinary session of the Sofia People's Soviet, held on 24 November, Administration Chairman Dr Ivan Pashov read an extensive report on the economic plans of the organization and its budget for 1950. The projects are all part of the country's general economic plan and budget. All changes in the economic life of the capital and in the structure of soviet offices have received due consideration.

One of the main objects of the soviet's work will be the reorganization of its industrial enterprises and better distribution of trade outlets throughout the city through their removal from the center to outlying districts. Another important function will be to alleviate the housing shortage. This problem, however, can be solved only over an extensive period of time and with the aid of the government. The welfare and efficient management of the city will also be a major responsibility of the soviet. New street surfacing, a better water supply, and extended sewage facilities will be provided to the outlying districts, and city cleaning will receive special attention throughout the area. The transportation system will be further expanded, educational facilities increased, and the cultural standards of the citizens raised. Special emphasis will be given to better health care. Greater assistance will be extended to the weaker social classes: Labor benefits will be expanded, and living conditions in general improved by extension of medical and welfare measures.

Furthermore, attention will be directed to economy measures, the fight against bureaucracy, and the transformation of offices into more active and efficient organs of the soviet.

Investment Plan

The total amount of capital investments in 1949 was 1,270,000,000 leva. According to available data, investments during the first 10 months of the

- 1 -

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year amounted to 1,615,562,000 leva. Considerable investments were made in the construction of the Serdika dairy plant, the P. Yu Todorov school, the deaf-mute institution, the Razsadnik maternity clinic, the soviet building in Lozenets, etc. All these projects will be completed during the coming year. Generally speaking, foreign imports have been received according to plan; some machines, however, have not been delivered.

Industrial Plan

Information on the execution of the plan in heavy industry shows that the streetcar plant will exceed the plan by 20 percent before the end of the year. So far, ten streetcars and 17 tractors have been manufactured.

The light-industry plan encompasses almost every economic enterprise of the soviet and will be met 83 percent before the end of 1949. This figure proves that many enterprises are still suffering from important deficiencies, the most serious of which are: (1) the technical management is not consistently trying to reduce production cost, conserve material, or improve and rationalize construction work; (2) self-sustaining enterprises show a noticeable tendency to increase expenditures by overemphasis on higher pay; (3) in many cases the norms are too low; (4) some of the self-sustaining enterprises consider themselves quite independent from the soviet and are reluctant to follow its instructions; (5) a considerable number of production and business enterprises are still operating on an unplanned basis; and (6) many enterprises work with unskilled personnel, which hampers productivity and lowers production standards.

The plan for 1950 will be as follows:

1. Investment Plan

Capital investments will include restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted investment funds, approved by the State Planning Commission, will comprise a total of 1,210,000,000 leva, 76 percent of which will be allotted to construction work and 24 percent to procurement of machines and equipment. Unrestricted funds will amount to 1,667,912,000 leva, bringing the total of investments to 2,277,912,000 leva. This amount will be distributed as follows among the various projects:

a. Industry -- The streetcar plant will be enlarged. The balance of funds will be used to complete the construction of the Serdika central dairy plant and to provide domestic and imported machines for the soviet's economic enterprises.

b. Trade -- The entire amount will be used for the completion of the double unloading ramp at the Stochna railroad station (freight station).

c. Construction (mechanization of construction) -- This item will cover the procurement of construction machinery and equipment for the soviet's building enterprises.

d. Agriculture -- A specified sum will be allotted to complete the sheep barn already started in the town of Marek and a dairy farm in Birimirtsai village for the Vitosha enterprise.

e. Public Education -- A specified sum will be allotted for the completion of the P. Yu. Todorov school and for additional floors at the Ivan Vazov and M. I. Vaptsarov schools, as well as for the completion of the deaf-mute institution at Krasno Selo and other schools already under construction.

- 2 -

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f. Public Health -- The sums allocated for this purpose will be used for the completion of the maternity clinic in the Razsadnik district of Sofia, the reconstruction of the maternity clinic located at Sheynovo Street No 19, and for the procurement of medical equipment.

g. Social Welfare -- The amounts allotted to this department will be used for the construction of child-care centers in the Levski and Khadzhi Dimitur districts of Sofia.

h. Housing -- The amounts provided will be used for superstructures on existing buildings in the city.

i. Administration Buildings -- The administration building of the DTO [Government Merchandizing Organization?] will finally be completed: A superstructure will be erected on the city administration building and the monumental Soviet Building will be completed.

j. Municipal Construction -- The plan provides for laying 20 kilometers of water mains and 15 kilometers of sewers, building 2 kilometers of the canal at the Cherepintsi sewage disposal station, and procuring machines and equipment for the DTO organization.

k. Public Works -- The amount provided will be used to lay 117,270 square meters of ordinary street surfacing, 134,000 square meters of highway, 6,701 square meters of stone pavement, 600 square meters of concrete pavement, 13,600 linear meters of curb, and 9,500 square meters of sidewalk. Two bridges also will be built, one over the Botevgrad highway and one over the canal at Slivnitsa Boulevard.

2. Supply Plan

The total amount approved for supplies, 290 million leva, will be used for the economic enterprises of the soviet. This figure is considered very low in comparison with current requirements. It is therefore expected that additional sums will be allocated before the end of 1950.

3. Industrial Plan

The heavy industrial enterprises of the soviet are confined to the streetcar plant. Local industry in general will increase by 45 percent during 1950, because of the greater number of TPZ [unidentified abbreviation] cooperatives.

4. Agricultural Plan

The cultivated area of the Sofia region will comprise 85,656 decares, compared to 86,544 decares in 1949. Of this figure, 10,500 decares will be allotted to truck-gardening, gradually converting the Sofia area into a vegetable belt.

The retail trade turnover for 1949 is estimated at 29,776,000,000 leva and is expected to reach 34,878,000,000 leva in 1950, only 3,020,000,000 of which will proceed from the private sector.

The streetcar line system will be expanded by 2.5 kilometers, the trolleybus system by 3 kilometers, the motor-bus system by 4 kilometers. The number of streetcars will be increased by the addition of 27 cars, and there will be one more trolley bus and two more motor busses.

Before the 1950 budget is analyzed, the 1949 figures should be reviewed briefly. Receipts were most satisfactory. The first 9 months, ending 1 October,

- 3 -

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produced revenues exceeding the figure anticipated for the whole year. The figure set for the year was 5,839,700,000 leva and the amount received during the first 9 months was 6,016,192,012 leva. These high receipts covered all expenditures in the fields of public health, education, social welfare, and agriculture. Disbursements for the period ending 1 October amounted to 4,437,000,000 leva.

Receipts under the 1950 budget plan will come from the following sources: (1) the share deducted from government receipts; (2) income from economic enterprises run by the soviet, whereby 907,176,800 leva will be deducted to cover maintenance expenses; (3) income from the soviets's financial department, expected to amount to 308,960,000 leva or 5.5 percent of all receipts; (4) income from taxes, estimated at 355,442,300 leva; (5) proceeds from fines, confiscations, interest on overdue taxes and forfeits, estimated at 31,546,000 leva altogether; (6) budget surpluses and unforeseen income, which may amount to 680 million leva. To cover the amount by which expenses may exceed income, government subsidies of 1,022,079,650 leva will be granted, as listed in section 68 of the soviet budget.

Expenditures will cover the entire cost of soviet projects for 1950, which amount to 5,725,204,720 leva. All projects will be designed to meet essential requirements of the population and are inspired by the program of the party and the Fatherland Front.

Subsequent to Dr Pashov's report, various soviet members formulated their questions, among them Dr. Rosa Dimitrova, Col An. Tsonev, Al. Gaytandzhev; Vulka Goranova, V. Dzhalisov, and Isaac Fransez. At the end of question period, the following members expressed their views on the principal aspects of the budget: Ang. Shishkov, T. Gruyev, architect Kiselkov, Ts. Tavetkovska, I. Gaytandzhev, and others. The session is continuing.

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- 4 -

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